

**VESTA CEDAR GLADE**  
**CLASS II NATURAL-SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA**

**COUNTY:** Wilson

**7.5' QUADRANGLE:** Gladeville

**PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:**

Central Basin

**ACREAGE:** 150

**OWNERSHIP:** State of Tennessee

**YEAR DESIGNATED:** 1986

**DESCRIPTION:** Vesta Cedar Glade is a 150-acre natural area in Wilson County. It is in the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee and is located in the southwest corner of Cedars of Lebanon State Forest. The natural area is cooperatively managed with the Tennessee Division of Forestry with about 60-acres of the property included in the state forest. Vesta is comprised of cedar glades, barrens and cedar-hardwood forest communities. It is a flat landscape with exposed limestone outcropping and sinkhole features that is characteristic of the karst topography that influences cedar glade ecology.

Vesta is most noteworthy because it supports a large of abundance of the federally endangered Tennessee coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*). It primarily occurs within a 10-acre fenced in area. It also occurs where there are pockets of glades surrounded by cedar-hardwood forest within the state forest, and in a less pristine open grassland outside the fenced area where prescribed burning is being used to restore barrens. In addition to Tennessee coneflower, other rare species include southern prairie dock (*Siliphium pinnatifidum*), purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), and glade cleft phlox (*Phlox bifida ssp stellari*).

This globally rare Middle Tennessee cedar glade is associated with exposed limestone outcropping and shallow soils. The deeper soil barrens support perennial bunch grass like little bluestem. Woody plants invade barrens in the absence of management. These areas are maintained by mowing and prescribed burning. A two-mile loop trail provides a glimpse of cedar glade and barrens habitat.

**SITE MANAGEMENT:** Division of Forestry, Cedar Forest Road, Lebanon, Tennessee 37090, (615) 443-2768; Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church Street, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447, phone (615) 532-0431; Division of Forestry, phone (615) 443-2768.

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Public access allowed; a parking area and hiking trails are provided.

**DIRECTIONS:** Vesta is located on Moccasin Road in Wilson County. From I-840 exit on Couchville Pike and go east approximately 2 miles (Couchville becomes Vesta Rd). Turn left on Moccasin Rd and go approximately 1 mile to the parking area on the left. From I-40 exit at Hwy 231 and proceed south for approximately 9 miles and turn right on Vesta Rd. and go approximately 2 miles and turn right on Moccasin Road.